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DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

TRADE OF

KIUKIANG

FOR THE YEAR 1904.



FOREIGN OFFICE, /uly, 1905

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No. 3452 Annual Series.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

CHINA.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904

ON THE

TRADE OF KIUKIANG.

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REPORT, Annual Series No. 3293.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty, JULY, 1905.

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No. 3452.

Reference to previous Report, Annual Series No. 3293.

Report on the Trade of Kiukiang for the Year 1904 By Mr. Consul Clennell.

(Kiukiang, May 19, 1905; received at Foreign Office, June 28, 1905.)

I have once more to record a substantial increase in the total Total value value of trade at Kiukiang. Expressed in silver, the net total for of trade. 1904 is the highest on record, exceeding that of 1903 by 1,411,766 Haikuan taels, or 6·15 per cent., and that for any earlier year by much larger amounts. In sterling the increase is 465,012*l*., or 15·38 per cent., but of this sum the greater part results from the advance in the average rate of exchange from 2s. 7§d. in 1903 to 2s. 10§d. in 1904. Had exchange remained stationary, the sterling increase would have amounted to 202,206*l*. only.

As in 1903, though in a somewhat less degree than in that year,

the exports exceeded the imports in value.

The following table shows the fluctuations in the various departments of trade, in Haikuan taels, during the five years 1900-04:—

	Value.							
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.			
Foreign imports	Hk. taels. 7,025,770 5,669 1,332,247 14,962	Hk. taels. 8,404,660 7,804 1,413,497 5,794	Hk. taels. 9,216,591 21,362 1,300,885 4,521	Hk. taels. 10,367,401 26,264 995,169 94,233	Hk. taels. 10,593,660 27,806 1,520,685 41,144			
Net total imports Exports of local origin	8,337,386 8,019,161	9,804,559 7,058,652	10,491,593 9,424,950	11,242,093 11,693,701	12,045,395 12,302,165			
Total	16,356,547	16,863,211	19,916,543	22,935,794	24,347,560			
Equiv. in sterling	£ 2,538,673	£ 2,494,350	£ 2,589,151	£ 3,022,269	£ 3,487,281			

Note.—The rate of exchange in 1900 was 3s. $1\frac{1}{4}d$. to the Haikuan tael; 1901, 2s. $11\frac{1}{2}d$.; 1902, 2s. $7\frac{1}{4}d$.; 1903, 2s. $7\frac{1}{8}d$.; and in 1904, 2s. $10\frac{3}{4}d$.

(789)

The following are the sterling equivalents of the figures tabulated above:—

	Value.							
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.			
Foreign imports	£ 1,090,459 880 206,775 2,322	£ 1,243,191 1,155 209,079 857	£ 1,198,157 2,777 169,115 588	£ 1,366,121 3,461 131,137 12,417	£ 1,517,321 3,983 217,807 5,893			
Net total imports Exports of local origin	1,294,032 1,244,641	1,450,258 1,044,092	1,363,907 1,225,244	1,481,380 1,540,889	1,725,252 1,762,029			
Total	2,538,673	2,494,350	2,589,151	3,022,269	3,487,281			

The gross value of foreign imports has increased about 11 per cent., that of native imports 66 per cent. (mainly attributable to cotton yarn), that of exports 14 per cent. above the corresponding figures for 1903.

In 1903 1,945*l*. worth of coal had been imported direct from Japan, and 10,579*l*. worth of tea exported direct to Asiatic Russia. In 1904 only 835*l*. worth of coal was imported direct from Japan, and there was no export direct to any foreign country, shipments to Russian ports being impracticable by reason of the war.

Re-exports, native and foreign, are shown in the table. As in 1903, the principal item was green tea, of which 39,881 Haikuan taels (5,712!.) worth was re-exported.

The following table shows the port of shipment of imports and the immediate destination of exports for 1904:—

	Impo	ris.	Exports.	Re-ex	Re-exports.		
	Foreign.	Native.	12xports.	Foreign.	Native.		
	Hk. taels.	Hk. taels.	Hk. taels.	Hk. taels.	Hk. taels.		
Foreign countries	5,830	••	••		••		
Chinese ports-							
Newchwang		2,103	**	••	••		
Tientsin		4,106	52,868	••	• •		
Chefoo		4,542	• •	• •	••		
Kiaochou		1,020	••	••	••		
Ichang		8,471	0.000.000	18 180	7.40		
Hankow		184,257	2,960,930	17,172	540		
Wuhu		2,993	188,399	287 45	• •		
Nanking	10.587,830*	4,852	92,268	193	183		
Chinkiang }	10,007,000*	38,550	634,186				
Shanghai		1,121,367	8,414,658	10,109	40,421		
Soochow		5,534	• •	••	• •		
Hangchow Ningpo		15,196	••	••	••		
Foochow	1	40,754	••		• •		
A		3,187	• •	••	• •		
Swatow		41,775	••	••	••		
0		41,929	••	••	••		
Canton		41,929	••	••	••		
Total	10,593,660	1,520,685	12,343,309	27,806	41,144		

^{*} Undistinguished (principally Shanghai).

The usual return of shipping forms Annex III at the end of this Shipping. report.

The total tonnage under the cognisance of the Imperial Maritime Customs shows an increase of 383,892 tons, or a little over 9 per cent.

British shipping increased from 2,046,019 tons to 2,329,688 tons, an advance mainly due to the addition of two new steamers, viz., the "Tuckwo" of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, and the "Kinling," of the China Navigation Company, to the list of vessels trading on the Lower Yangtze. These two companies now run four vessels each regularly on this line in place of three as hitherto. The number of trips made by British steamers was 898 in 1904, against 861 in 1903.

The entries under the heading of British sailing ships refer to the substitution by the China Navigation Company of a new hulk, the "Pasha" (1,668 tons), for their old hulk, "Sultan" (808 tons), which, after over 30 years' service here, was removed to Wuhu, and to the arrival of two new pontoons or cargo boats for the use of the

same company.

Towards the end of the year a small steam launch commenced to run under the British flag between Kiukiang and Wuhsüeh, the first town of importance on the Yangtze above this port, This vessel, the "Tien-lung," makes a daily trip of about 23 miles each way, carrying passengers and treasure. This is the first appearance since 1899 of a non-Chinese flag among vessels plying from Kiukiang under the Inland Steam Navigation rules. It seems probable that the example will be followed.

Apart from the regular service liners, which now number 14 under the British flag, and the visits of sea-going vessels that take their place occasionally, four other British steamers called at Kiukiang during the year. Three were ocean steamers of the China Steam Navigation Company, and the fourth a tug-boat that came up in December with a consignment of machinery for the Mint at Nanch'ang.

The cargo carried by British vessels was valued at 2,242,911l., imports being 1,105,413l. and exports 1,137,498l. In 1903 the cargo carried was 1,928,671l.

648 entries and 590 clearances were with cargo, against 605 and 609 in 1903.

German shipping shows an increase in trips from 353 to 367, and of tonnage from 811,039 to 843,906 tons (all steam). The cargo imported on 93 trips and exported on 134, amounted to 210,498., imports being 131,410. and exports 79,088. In 1903 they carried 195,973. worth. This increase is not proportionate, either in tonnage or in cargo, to the total increase of shipping and trade at the port.

The Japanese flag covered 579,178 tons in place of 591,184 tons. These vessels made 204 trips in 1904 against 203 in 1903. Cargo was discharged on 93 and shipped on 45 occasions in place of 96 and 65 in 1903. It was worth 43,056l., of which imports 20,008l. and

(789)

exports 23,048l., against a total of 78,983l. in 1903. One sea-going vessel brought coal for the use of the Russian tea factories. Otherwise the trips recorded are those of the regular river liners of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

One Norwegian vessel of 860 tons visited the port bringing 380l. worth of cargo, against 3,946 tons and 10,285l. worth of cargo in 1903.

The Russian flag, which covered 1,294 tons and 1,377l. worth of

cargo in 1903, did not appear at Kiukiang in 1904.

In Chinese shipping the steamers of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company made 272 trips in place of 251, this company, like the two leading British firms, having increased the number of its vessels on this line; 43 entries and 85 clearances of small Chinese sailing vessels appear in the Imperial Maritime Customs returns against 38 and 44 in 1903.

·Under Inland Steam Navigation rules 25 launches, the largest being of 82 tons, belonging to eight different companies, made $804\frac{1}{2}$ return trips in 1904, against $582\frac{1}{2}$ trips in 1903. For a while two of these vessels were chartered by a British firm to run on the Yangtze to Huangchou and intermediate stations, but the principal

field of their activity is the Poyang Lake.

Within the last month or two a new company has been started which runs two launches between Kiukiang and Anch'ing, calling at Huk'ou, P'engtse, Matang, T'ungliu and other intermediate points on the Yangtze below this port. Several of these companies are semi-official in their composition and management, one being controlled by the Provincial Board of Mines, and another called Yü Chang Shang-lun Kung-ssü having a monopoly of the carriage of native opium.

The entire tonnage under the Chinese flag aggregates 853,822 tons in 1904 against 745,403 tons in 1903. These vessels carried 1,010,188l. worth of cargo—477,917l. imports. 532,271l. exports—against 838,736l. in 1903, so that there is a material advance both in

their tonnage and their carrying trade.

The percentages of trade and tonnage for the years 1903 and 1904 under the various flags are shown below:—

)				Tr	ade.	Tonnage.		
Nationality		ity.		1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	
				Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
British				63 .15	63 .96	48.74	50 .55	
Chinese				27 .46	28 .80	17 .76	18 .53	
German				6.42	6	19.32	18 .31	
Japanese				2.59	1 .23	14 .06	12 .57	
Norwegian				0.34	0.01	0.09	0.04	
Russian				0.04		0.03		

So far as a conclusion can be drawn, the returns seem to indicate that there is little ground to anticipate any large diversion of trade at this port from the British and Chinese flags to those of other nations. German and Japanese lines have plied on the river regularly for five years, and vessels of other nationalities have made occasional visits. Though German tonnage is about the same as Chinese (in 1903 a little more, in 1904 a little less) and a little more than one-third of the British, while Japanese tonnage is not very far behind German, these flags have never secured as much as one-tenth of the trade between them, although the total trade of the port has grown by 50 per cent. In 1904 their joint share was barely one-fourteenth of the total.

Annexes I and II at the end of this report are compiled from the Imports.

tables of exports and imports in the customs returns.

The importation of foreign opium increased by 25,254l., or about 10 per cent.

Foreign cotton goods, on the other hand, show a slight decline, amounting to 14,614l., or about 2 per cent., their total value being given as 764,368l. for 1903 and 749,754l. for 1904. This decline is, however, entirely due to the fact that Indian yarn failed to maintain the unprecedentedly high figure (467,681l.) of 1903. It is still by far the most considerable import of Kiukiang. Excluding this item (440,546l.) we find the sum of other foreign cotton products to be 309,208l. in place of 296,687l., an advance of 12,521l. But of this, 11,858l. is to be credited to the single article of Japanese yarn, so that, allowing for the virtual disappearance of British and the total disappearance of Hong-Kong yarn from the list, we arrive at the result that the value of the cotton piece-goods trade was practically identical for the two years. The precise figures are 260,412l. for 1904 and 257,931l. for 1903. This slight increase in sterling value is more than accounted for by rise of exchange.

To show the true consumption of cotton products in the district, it is necessary to take into account that portion which appears in the list of native imports. Here the trade has recovered from the depression recorded in 1903. Piece-goods have increased from 1,049l. to 2,853l., and yarn from 51,312l. to 130,708l. Adding native and foreign goods together, we find piece-goods increased from 258,980l. to 263,265l.; yarn from 557,749l. to 620,050l., and the total from 816,729l. to 883,315l.; that is, a gross advance of 66,586l., or about 8 per cent. Thus the large consumption of yarn noticed in recent years has been not merely maintained, but considerably increased, though the local market has been less exclusively supplied by India than had lately been the case. Japan and Shanghai, after a temporary eclipse, have once more entered the field as serious competitors of the cotton mills of Bombay.

Cotton piece-goods show sundry fluctuations in the several headings, both in price and amount, but, on the whole, the trade seems to be almost stationary at a value of a little over 250,000l. The most considerable advance is in Italians. In white plain shirtings—the class of goods in which the importation was largest—the very decided increase in volume was more than balanced by

lower prices.

In woollen goods there was no important change. The total

value was a few hundred pounds less than in 1903.

In metals the customs returns suggest an increase of about 19,000l., but, as I conjectured in my last report, the value given for tin slabs in 1903 (1,690l.) is incorrect. It should be 8,000l., or thereabouts. This reduces the increment to 13,000l., an increase plainly due to the growing activity of the provincial Mint at Nanch'ang, for whose use 3,479 cwts. of copper ingots and slabs and 3,644 cwts. of blanks for coinage were imported, value 29,970l., chiefly from Japan. In 1903 the last named item does not appear, or is merged in the 5,293 cwts., value 19,919l., given under the heading of copper ingots and slabs. Before the new copper 10-cash coinage was instituted the importation of copper was inconsiderable.

80 per cent. of the tin slabs imported went under transit pass to the tea districts of Kiangsi, as well as 20 per cent. of the lead. Another 25 per cent. of the lead was similarly passed into Anhui.

A list of some 250 foreign sundries appears in the customs returns. Their total value (406,647l. in 1904 and 284,306l. in 1903) shows an increase of 122,341l., of which 75,247l., or more than half, is to be credited to kerosene oil. This commodity has advanced both in volume and in price, the 4,841,410 gallons imported in 1904 being returned as worth 123,037l., while the 2,730,810 gallons of 1903 were only worth 47,790l.

Sugar has increased from 76,741l. to 110,223l., the advance in

white sugar being especially noticeable.

The importation of Ceylon tea dust, noticed in my last report, which reached 14,540*l*. in 1903, has almost absolutely disappeared from the list (1 picul at 14s. 4*d*. being the total recorded in 1904) in sympathy with the cessation of shipments of brick tea to Russia

during the war.

The following are foreign articles of which the importation, though considerable, is insufficient to justify separate entries in the table annexed to this report. Over 10,000 Haikuan taels each: Llama braid, buttons, cardamoms, clocks, clothing, lamps, soap, soda, household stores, timber, wine; under 10,000 Haikuan taels each: Beer, candles, cassia, cigarettes, engine and boiler fittings, dried fish, flour, white lead, millinery, lichees, lung-ngans, mirrors, mangrove bark, condensed milk, morphia, munitions of war, paper and perfumery. I also observe small items such as crucibles, foreign books, gas fittings, dyes other than aniline (six varieties), gramophones, sewing machines, oil other than kerosene (six kinds), telegraph materials where the amounts, however small, seem to indicate the existence of a taste for and an interest in the products of Western civilisation.

Turning to native imports, we find a proportionately far greater increase than in foreign goods. I have already remarked on the most noticeable advance, namely, the recovery of native cotton piece-goods and yarn from the low figures of 1903. Simultaneously with the increase in native machine-made piece-goods, nankeens

also increased from 3,400l. to 3,975l. The enhanced demand for printed books, on which I commented in 1903, has not been maintained. The considerable reduction in green tea imported, from 2,331 cwts. (worth 12,126l.) to 1,318 cwts. (worth 7,619l.) is a natural result of the lesser demand for this article for export.

Although the exportation of tea has receded by over 1,000,000 Exports. taels from the unusually high figures of 1903, 'there has been so large an increase in the shipments of other staple produce from this district that the total of all exports is larger by 608,464 Haikuan taels. On a sterling basis, with some assistance from higher exchange, this

advance appears as 221,000l.

The return of beans for the first time differentiates the various kinds, showing that between 80 and 90 per cent. of the output, hitherto lumped together as "beans and peas," consists of yellow beans. In 1904 this one article totalled two and one-third times the weight and nearly four times the value of the entire export of all kinds of beans in 1903.

I suggested in my report for 1902-03 that the occurrence of war between Japan and Russia would result, as the Boxer troubles of 1900 did, in a fortuitous impulse to the bean trade in this district, by diverting to the Yangtze a business which centres in normal times at Newchwang. The following figures show how far this has occurred:—

TABLE showing Export of Beans and Bean Cake during the Years 1899–1904.

		Quantity.			
Year.	Newchwang.	Kiukiang.	Other Yangtze Ports.	Remarks.	
1899 1900 1901 1902 1903	Cwts. 10,824,324 6,443,484 9,363,505 9,604,260 9,496,587 5,489,293	Cwts. 213,998 343,365 61,946 105,154 156,426 399,077	Cwts. 2,202,495 3,415,584 2,074,171 2,791,937 3,660,006 4,316,391*	Boxer year Yangtze floods Russo-Japanese war	

^{*} This amount of 4,316,391 cwts. is incomplete as, being calculated from the quarterly instead of from the annual returns for the other Yangtze ports, it omits bean cake from Hankow. Perhaps another 1,000,000 cwts. should be added if the proportion of past years has been maintained.

Thus the export from Newchwang has declined by 4,000,000 cwts., while that from the Yangtze has increased by probably 2,000,000 cwts., Kiukiang enjoying more than a proportionate share of the advance.

The Russian doctrine of contraband doubtless interfered with shipments to Japan, at least during the first period of the war.

But even apart from this cause, the fact that only 1,202,111 cwts. of bean products left Newchwang in the last three months of the year, when the Japanese were in possession of the port and commanded the trade routes, seems to show that other causes, such as actual destruction of crops by the course of hostilities must have cooperated.

As pointed out last year, the customs return for chinaware does not correspond in any way with the output of the Ching-tê-Chên works. It would seem that only a fraction (which some estimate at one-fourth, and others place as low as one-sixth) of the pottery produced there passes through Kiukiang at all. Far more is conveyed by junk or land transport to all parts of China, much in particular passing up the Kan River and over the Meiling Pass to Canton. And of that which comes through Kiukiang only a part appears in the returns. Almost every traveller takes a few pieces in his baggage, and, in addition to this, there is the "tribute porcelain" for Pekin to be reckoned. Yet I think it probable that there has been a real decrease in the year's out-turn. For some weeks in August and September the kilns were at a standstill, at what is normally the busiest season of the year, by reason of a strike, of which the effect seems to be reflected in the lessened returns.

The exportation of raw cotton, with and without seeds, has nearly doubled in value, being 81,313l. in 1904, against 41,630l. in 1903, though the increase in quantity is proportionately rather less. This item, formerly quite inconsiderable, suddenly sprang into importance in 1903, when the rise in price of American cotton stimulated a demand, especially in Japan, for the product of this part of China. In spite of the war that demand seems to have been more than maintained. Cotton cultivation is much commoner round Kiukiang than was the case a few years ago.

Another article that shows an advance in value is grass-cloth, which is woven in the prefectures of Nanch'ang and Fuchou, though here there has been an actual reduction of quantity, both in the finer and coarser grades. The same is true of hides and skins. The amount of hemp shipped, on the other hand, has increased about 25 per cent. at the same average price as in 1903.

Lop'ing, the chief centre of the indigo industry, was for several months the scene of disturbances provoked by an unpopular tax on the cultivation of this staple. The troubles do not seem to have adversely affected the export, which has increased 25 per cent. in volume, though the lower prices obtained have kept the value at nearly the figure of 1903.

The fact that rice, called in the returns "tribute rice," appears as an export, and the largely increased shipments of groundnuts and sesamum seed, are evidence of a favourable season from an agriculturist's point of view. It is understood that negotiations are proceeding between the local authorities and the Nanking Viceroy for the effective opening of Kiukiang for the export of rice to other parts of China, such as obtains at Wuhu. Rice, it is pointed out,

11:

already leaves the province in large quantities by junk through the Poyang Lake to places lower down the Yangtze. It is now hoped that by removing the obstacles that have hitherto prevented its shipment in large amounts by steamer from Kiukiang, the local authorities will, besides assisting the farmers by providing a ready and extended market for surplus grain, obtain a source of revenue that will render practicable a reclamation scheme for the improvement of the port of Kiukiang, and also provide funds for building more commodious residences for the district magistrate and other officials; but, just as the scheme is being promoted for local reasons at Kiukiang, it is opposed in the name of those locally interested at Wuhu, a portion of whose trade it threatens to divert.

Leaf tobacco has recovered from the comparative depression

of the last few years and stands at nearly the figure of 1901.

The value declared for the superior quality of paper was nearly double that ruling in 1903, so that, in spite of a reduction of volume from 37,569 to 22,432 cwts., this article is returned for a total value of 82,046*l*. in place of 68,614*l*. Second quality paper shows a material increase both in volume and value.

The total value of the tea of all kinds exported in 1904 was 4,979,389 Haikuan taels (708,688l.), against 6,039,607 Haikuan taels (708,820l.) in 1002

taels (795,839l.) in 1903.

An analysis of the figures shows that this falling-off is due to reduced shipments of green tea on the one hand, and of brick and tablet tea on the other.

In the first-named article the price in 1903 had been abnormally high, and it would appear that shipments were encouraged to a somewhat greater degree than the real demand warranted. In 1904 lower prices prevailed, but the market being to some extent glutted, the demand for fresh supply was curtailed. In the result the export from Kiukiang fell off about 20,000 cwts., or 94,000l. Leaf tea, in which the output was proportionately reduced in a still more marked degree, is green tea in a partly manufactured state. To appreciate the full extent of the falling-off these two

articles should be read together.

The lessened export of brick and tablet tea is of course a direct result of the war. Not only has direct communication by sea with Asiatic Russia been impossible, but the difficulty of transport by other routes has been greater. Enhanced freights, e.g., to Odessa, and insurance charges, have combined with the internal disorganisation of the Russian market to render it impracticable for the factories here to export as much as in normal years. However, a partial set-off appears in the better price obtained for the unfinished product, tea dust, which is sent to Hankow to be made into brick tea there. The volume of this item remaining about the same, there has been a marked increase in its total value.

Against these items, where the trade is diminished, should be set the increase of 55,829l. in value of black tea exported, though

the volume is slightly less than in 1903.

On the whole, the figures support what I said about the tea trade last year. It has recovered from the "low water mark" of 1901, but it would be premature to draw any broad conclusion either from the rapid advance of 1903 or from the falling-off in 1904. The one was stimulated by the relaxation, from temporary causes, of Ceylon competition; as to the other, the values shown for black tea have been so high as, even with a stationary volume of this article, to go a long way to counteract the falling-off in other varieties, while the decrease in brick and tablet tea is a fortuitous circumstance wholly due to the war and which may be expected to cease with its cause.

The immediate destination of tea shipped in 1904 was as follows:—

			Value.						
			Hankow.	Wuhu.	Chinkiang.	Shanghai.			
			Hk. taels.	IIk. taels.	IIk. taels.	Hk. taels.			
rea—			2,499,275			204,330			
Black Brick	***	• • •		••	••	225,120			
Green	••	•••	21,623	• ••	::	1,784,384			
Tablet	••		21,020	::		3,354			
Sundry			141,775	1,417	2,436	92,675			
Total		••	2,665 673	1,417	2,436	2,309,863			
Grand	total			4,979	9,389				

Transit pass trade.

I explained in my report for 1902-03 that the inward transit pass trade of this port, formerly covering half or more than half of the foreign imports, had been disorganised by the rivalry of an institution called the Pao-shang Chii, which issues passes in competition with those supplied through the Imperial Customs. My prognostication that the effects of this competition would appear even more plainly in 1904 has been fully borne out.

The percentage of foreign imports consigned to inland destinations was 54·30 per cent. in 1900, 60·23 per cent. in 1901, 46·56 per cent. in 1902 and 23·54 per cent. in 1903. In 1904 it fell to 9·63 per cent., the value of the goods so carried being 1,020,084 Haikuan taels, out of a total of 10,593,660 Haikuan taels (146,1061. out of 1,517,3211.).

The destination by provinces of transit pass goods was: to Kiangsi, 880,843 Haikuan taels; to Anhui, 117,316 Haikuan taels; to Hupei, 21,606 Haikuan taels; to Fukien, 319 Haikuan taels.

In all, 14,313 passes were issued, of which 14,162 were to Chinese, 44 to British, 105 to Germans and 1 each to a Russian and an American firm.

The dues collected were 19,883 Haikuan taels. In the three previous years the figures had been:—

		Year.			Number of Passes.	Dues.
						Hk. taels.
1903				• •	16,402	38,570
1902					32,958	63,073
1901	• •	• •	• •		41,572	79,074

The following are the principal items included in the total of 1,020,084 Haikuan taels:—

					Value.
					Hk. taels.
Cotton goods-					IJA. bacis,
To Kiangsi					449,718
" Anhui		•	"		5,018
" TT	••	•••	••		7,914
" Hupei	••	••	••	•••	7,519
Total					462,680
Indian yarn		••	••		118,542
Japanese yarn	••	••	••		16,654
British grey shirti			• • •	- 1	82,277
British grey sheeti		• •	••	**	19,965
British white shee		• •	• •	•••	84,821
British T-cloths	ungs	• •	• •	•••	
Italians, dyed, blac		• •	• •	• • •	23,491
		• •	• •	••	16,383
Italians, dyed, cold	ourea	• •	• •	• • •	10,832
Other goods —					10.040
Steel plate cutti	ngs	• •	• •	•••	13,842
Lead, in pigs —					11 MWG
To Kiangsi	• •	• •	• •	•••	11,770
", Anhui	• •	• •	• •	•••	15,581
Tin, in slabs—					
To Kiangsi	• •	• •		• •	71,471
,, Anhui	• •		• •	• •	1,131
Bêche-de-mer	• •	• •	• •	•••	12,915
Kerosene oil—					
American	fo 6	• •		••	81,966
Russian			• •		120,501
Sumatra	• •	• •	• •	• •	23,916
Sugar-					
Brown	• •		• •	•••	3,948
Candy	• •				529
Refined	• •		• •		10,893
White					16,130
 		-			

In addition to transit passes on foreign goods, similar free passes are issued for native cotton goods, especially for yarn. These are not affected by the competition of the Pao-shang Chü, and, in fact, cover practically the entire import. With a total importation of 932,499 Haikuan taels worth of native cottons, of which 912,578 Haikuan taels were yarn, there were sent up country under free passes to destinations in Kiangsi, 914,346 Haikuan taels worth of native cotton goods, of which 910,222 Haikuan taels were yarn.

Applications for outward transit passes were more numerous than in any year except 1899, but I cannot argue that the business has any real importance. Although 86 passes were taken out by British firms, only 33 seem to have been used, which, with 18 used by Americans, makes a total of 51 passes covering goods valued at 76,639 Haikuan taels, on which dues amounting to 1,162 Haikuan taels were collected. Nearly half the merchandise exported in this way consisted of liquid indigo (34,370 Haikuan taels), the only other considerable item being melon seed (11,886 Haikuan taels).

Customs revenue.

Though still low as compared with a few years ago, the customs revenue of this port seems to have ceased to decline. The figures for 1904 show an increase in every heading except transit dues. As compared with 1903 they are as follows:—

	Value			
	1904.	1903.		
	Hk. tarls.	Hk. taels.		
Import duty	11,764	11,664		
" on opium	72,746	67,302		
Export duiy	435,269	382,718		
Coast trade duty	6,816	6,569		
Fonnage dues	1,508	817		
Fransit ,,	21,044	38,849		
Opium lekin	193,982	179,358		
Total	743,129	687,277		

The revenue contributed by British merchants was 433,436 Haikuan taels in 1904 and 389,928 Haikuan taels in 1903.

The subjoined tables show the movements of treasure recorded in 1904:—

Treasure.

				Val	ue.
				Imports.	Exports.
				Hk. taels.	Hk. taels.
Shanghai	i			 86,380	775,990
Chinkian			• •	 45,000	110,400
Nanking				 2,000	31,250
*** 3				 27,000	9,000
Anking				 51,031	2,000
Hankow				 541,908	217,940
Amov				 500	
~ ."	•		**	 8,000	• •
	Total		••	 761,819	1,146,580
	Equiv	in	sterling	 £ 109,115	£ 164,224

The above totals are made up of-

				Value.		
				Imports.	Exports.	
Sycee silver			•	Hk. taels. 667,988	Hk. taels. 600,350	
Dollars		• •		36,400	545,990	
Copper coins				56,931		
" cash	• •	• •		500	240	

This table indicates that, in addition to the copper 10-cash coinage being minted in this province at Nanch'ang, similar coins minted in other provinces-notably Hupei, Anhui, Kiangnan (Nanking Mint) and Kukien-are being brought into circulation. During the present year the small British-owned launch that plies between Kiukiang and Wuhsüeh has been engaged in conveying very large consignments of these coins from the last-named place. The coins at present circulate freely everywhere, and are manifestly more convenient than the old, cumbrous copper cash, but as their intrinsic value is much less than 10 cash each—being commonly said to be about 4 cash—there appears to be apprehension in many quarters less the various provincial Governments should yield to the temptation of issuing them in excessive quantities for the sake of the immediate profit, and a serious crisis arise so soon as their market value begins to depreciate :-

The number of passengers by steamer to and from Kiukiang Passenger in 1904 is shown below:-

		Fro	m	То	
		Foreigners.	Chinese.	Foreigners.	Chinese.
		Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Shanghai and mediate ports	inter-	511	18,615	504	18,145
Hankow and mediate ports Poyang lake	inter-	485	26,840 24,143	471	31,249 27,649
Total .,		996	69,598	975	77,043

Much has been heard during the year regarding the proposed General construction of railways in this province. An official has been remarks. appointed with the title of Director of Railways for Kiangsi, and a temple at Nanch'ang has been converted into the office of the provincial railway administration. A pamphlet, published in the autumn, showed that many influential persons had interested themselves in urging the construction of a network of lines radiating

from Nanch'ang to all the chief centres of Kiangsi, beginning with one from Nanch'ang to Kiukiang. This line, for which it is estimated that a capital of 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 taels will be required, is to run to the west of the Lushan Mountains so as to avoid engineering difficulties. Shares of 100 taels each are to be issued, and, should subscription by other methods fail to raise the sum desired, the promotors have authority to resort to a lottery. It is expressly stipulated that no shares are to be granted to any but Chinese subjects, and transfer to a foreigner renders the share void, but should it be ultimately impossible to obtain enough Chinese capital, the promoters undertake to consult His Excellency Sheng, Director-General of Chinese Railways, as to the steps they should pursue. The scheme met at first with little favour, being regarded as a pretext for getting up a provincial lottery on the Hupei model, for the benefit of the officials, but I believe that shares to the value of 1,000,000 taels or so have been taken up and two engineers, one British and one Danish, are at present engaged on a preliminary survey of the country. This line would be about 115 miles in length if it follows, as I suppose it will, the existing high road viâ Tê-an

During the summer a short telegraph line was established connecting this port with the hill sanatorium at Kuling. The troubles in the eastern parts of Kiangsi during the autumn emphasised the need of telegraphic communication in that region with Kiukiang and Nanch'ang, so that hopes are entertained that lines will shortly be established to the Kuanghsin Valley and to Ching-tê Chên. As yet, the only trunk line is that from Kiukiang viâ Nanch'ang and the Kan valley to Canton. Several new districts have been opened up by the Chinese Imperial post office, but its connections are still far from being complete. There is, e.g., as yet no service to Ching-tê Chên, though this place is the second largest town in Kiangsi.

Though not directly affecting the commerce of the port, it may be of interest to mention that the negotiations, extending over nearly seven years, for obtaining an extension of the Kuling Estate were at length brought to a successful issue in the autumn. The area available for foreign buildings on the mountains is thereby more than doubled, and, the lots being readily taken up by purchasers, a large and rapid development of this sanatorium, so useful to foreign residents in China, may be confidently anticipated.

A proposal has been mooted by the Chinese authorities for extending the available building area of Kiukiang itself by diverting the mouth of the Lung-k'ai River to a point some half a mile above its present situation, and reclaiming the land that will then lie between the new course of this stream and the British Concession. A modern suburb, with wide and straight streets, is to be built on the reclaimed land, and though the management is to be in Chinese hands, foreigners are to be encouraged to take up lots. In particular it is expected that steamer companies will desire the frontage for

KIUKIANG. 17

wharfage, and the Nanch'ang Railway is expected to occupy some portion of the land. To raise the necessary funds, the export of rice is to be permitted, subject, if the needful authority can be obtained, to a small tax to be partly devoted to the reclamation work. Meanwhile it is understood that a Japanese company has come forward with a proposal to undertake this work in return for certain wharfage privileges, but at present, I am informed, that the local officials look upon this alternative proposal with scant favour.

The scheme, noted last year, to construct a large arsenal at P'inghsiang, near the Kiangsi-Hunan border, has continued to be kept in view, and is believed to have been favourably reported upon by the Imperial Commissioner, His Excellency T'ieh Liang,

who visited this province about the end of the year.

My acknowledgements are due to Mr. H. M. Hillier, Commissioner of Customs, for early access to the returns upon which the tables and statistics in the present report are founded.

Annex I.—Return of Principal Articles of Export from Kiukiang during the Years 1904-1903.

					1	19	04.	1903.		
Ar	ticles.					Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
			_				£		£	
Beans-										
Black	***	***	•••	Cwts.	•••	19,332	5,350)			
Green		***	***	33	•••	18,842	7,481	156,426	30,00	
Yellow	***	***	***	22		358,085	116,321		,	
Other kinds	***	***	***	22	***	2,818 4,351	215	6 100	10.46	
China root Chinaware—	***	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	***	33	**	2,001	3,874	6,198	10,46	
Coarse			***			28,501	46,807	34,136	45,34	
Fine		•••		11		15,087	55,499	27,189	75,23	
Cotton-	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••		"		,	00,100	,200	10,00	
Raw			***	22		33,220	71,943	23,952	38,44	
With seed	***	***	***	,,		12,304	9,370	6,062	3,18	
Feathers	***			22	***	2,015	3,967	1,111	2,17	
Firecrackers a	nd firew	orks		11		5,631	5,150	4,318	3,82	
Grass-cloth-										
Coarse	4++	***	***	22	***	9,986	57,667	11,554	51,15	
Fine		***	***	22		3,263	43,381	3,740	35,19	
Groundnuts	***	•••	***	22	***	44,243	12,243	19,814	4,34	
Hemp	***	***	000	37	***	99,764	132,032	79,762	107,09	
Hides	***	***	***	32	• • • •	10,110	36,251	11,294	29,24	
indigo, liquid	***	***	•••	Pieces		50,829	30,578	39,804	30,31	
Mats, bamboo	***	***	***	Pieces	***	299,488	22,658	286,893	16,18	
Paper—				0.4-		00 400	00.040	0.00		
1st quality	***	***	***	Cwts.	••••	22,432	82,046	37,569	68,61	
2nd ,,	***	***	***	22	• • • •	147,969	124,617	115,961	80,22	
Rice	***	***	***	23	•••	24,207	7,572	***	***	
Seed— Melon						10,521	0 961	20.046	10.42	
Sesamum	***	•••	***	2.7		79,727	8,861 38,367	20,946 53,871	10,43	
Other kinds	•••	•••	***	22		3,020	2,005	1,727	20,65	
Skins, all kind		•••	***	Pieces	***	108,303	5,226	136,880	3,99	
l'allow—	D ***	***	***	I ICCCS	***	200,000	0,220	100,000	0,55	
Animal				Cwts.		95	100	1,727	1.88	
Vegetable		***		11		13,635	16,104	20,820	21,89	
Геа-				"		****		,	,	
Black	***	***		>>		126,865	387,235	127,407	331,40	
", brick	***	***		"		22,333	32,244	42,587	56,55	
Dust	***	***		22	***	18,673	18,174	18,304	14,18	
Green		***	***	23		44,745	258,673	64,699	352,54	
Leaf	***	***	***	22	***	4,479	6,738	19,502	36,66	
Log		***		11	***	3,818	4,906	3,587	1,88	
Stalk and se	ed	***	***	33	***	404	238	1,155	53	
Tablet	***	***		11	***	154	480	1,332	2,06	
Tin, compound	٠		***	22	***	1,989	5,600	2,440	4,75	
Tobacco—						172 509	91 000	71 557	24.00	
Leaf		444	***	22	***	113,592 4,751	81,999	74,557	34,08	
Prepared		***	***	"	•••		8,624 1,757	5,298	10,62	
Stalk Other exports		< ···	***	22	***	6,280	15,569	3,410	1,12 16,54	
other exports	***	***	***	***		***	10,003	•••	10,04	
Tota	ıl	***				•••	1,767,922		1,553,30	
	foreign						-,,,,,,,,,	***	2,000,00	
	ported	30000					3,983		3,46	
	•									

Annex II.—Return of Principal Articles of Import into Kiukiang during the Years 1904–1903.

			19	04.	1903.		
Articles.		-		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
					£		£
FOREIGN GOODS.			1	111	~		~
Opium-							
Malwa	•••		•••	2,859	251,104	2,635	225,280
Patna Cotton goods—	•••	. "	***	28	2,175	34	2,745
Shirtings, grey, plain,	all grades			127,229	52,919	126,793	51,236
Sheetings ,, Shirtings, white, plai:	n 11	"	***	51,500 131,405	23,705 73,400	58,795 10 5 ,606	32,652 76,954
White Irishes Shirtings, figured, &c	••• " ••		***	8,638 210	5,010	9,667	5,771
Drills			***	210	7,121	15,335	9,302
Jeans			•••	13,580 13,570	6,263	10,590	5,035
T-cloths Chintzes and prints		. 22	•••	19,894	6,015	10,590 15,241 12,806	5,053 3,894
Other printed cottons			•••	11,465	3,613	24,269	5,641
Cotton— Italians				44 907	29 570	21.000	
Lastings	*** **		•••	44,327 22,865	33,570 11,142	31,209 17,438	20,029 11,321
Turkey-reds Dyed Hong-Kong shi		- 11	•••	23,537	8,281	17,438 22,537 7,995	8,196
Other dyed cottons			•••	22,865 23,537 9,078 4,797	3,891 2,082	7,995 4,063	3,455 1,976
Cetton flannel Velvets and velvetcer	***	. ,,	•••	16,659	8,540	13.745	7,550
Handkerchiefs	18		8	16,659 107,619 32,005	3,082 2,075	76,931 22,967	2,655 1,513
Yarn—							
British Hong-Kong	•••		40-	21	99	211 286	921 996
Indian	*** **		•••	144,089	440,546	153,643	467,681
Japanese Woollen and cotton n	*** **		***	16,454	48,697	10,879	36,839
Other cotton goods				***	933 8,665	***	2,031 3,667
Woollen goods-		1					
Camlets, British Cloth, broad	*** **		•••	2,986 27,139 6,996	4,879 5,831	3,170 23,701	6,265 4,372
	*** **	. Pieces		6,996	5,361	5,079	4,372 4,785
Spanish stripes Berlin wool				56,753 308	4,878 3,852	53,913 240	4,760 3,527
Other woollen goods				***	1,663	***	3,523
Miscellaneous piece-goo Metals—	ds			***	4,696	***	4,724
Brass, yellow metal a	nd wire	. Cwts.		145	435	136	490
Copper— Ingets and slabs				3,479	12,364	5 202	10.010
Coins, blanks for co	inage	,,	•••	3,644	17,606	5,293	19,919
Other copper goods Iron and steel plate co		. ,,	•••	73	278	125	652
Iron and steel plate ci	ittings	"	•••	28,606	7,572	19,087	7,545
Cobbles and wire sh		,,,	•••	14,586 7,731	4,562	10,210	2,825
Nail, rod and wire (Wire and rope (old)	new)		•••	7,731	3,352 1,717	5,817	4,607
Other iron and mild st	eel (old)	. ,,	•••	7,049	1,609	} 13,676	3,028
Galvanised iron goods	(new)	22	***	2,805 1,395	1,387 933	2,545	1,540
Lead—	***	"	***				
Pigs and bars Sheets and tea lead		22		13,362 82	9,166 65	14,274	10,080
Tin slabs	•••		***	2,449	12,810	1,921 1,599	1,553 [1,690]*
Other metals Sundries—		"	•••	2,488	2,625	3,083	3,537
Bags, all kinds	*** ***			359,300	4,569	232,820	2,497
Bêche-de-mer	***	Cwts.	•••	852 29	4,268 3,327 4,269	590 23	5,052
Birds'-nests Coal	***	Tons	•••	5,624	4,269	2,376	3,449 3,209
Cuttle-fish	***	Cwts.		4,850	8,153	3,019	6,683
	*** ***	Pieces		3,257,917	9,104 3,018	2,505,761	6,792 3,023
Ginseng	***	Cwts.		22	4,662	30	4,476
Glass, window Leather articles	•••	Boxes	•••	3,797	5,982 3,607	3,805	2,507
Machinery and parts					7,477 945	42,007	189
Matches Japanese	•••	Gross		5,584 182,768	945 5,131	42,007 89,302	4,705 10,002
Medicines	•••	"	***	506	2,399		1,889
Mushrooms	***	Cwts.		506	3,044 2,486	350	2,615
Nushrooms Needles	***	Mille		85,507		76,840	2,153

RETURN of Principal Articles of Import into Kiukiang during the Years 1904-1903—continued.

Articles.							19	04.	19	03.
	Artic	les.					Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Foreign	v Goo	Ds -co	ntd.					£		£
Sundries—c	antd									
Oll, keros										
Americ				***	Gallon	3	1,481,600	41,890	1,146,810	21,18
Russian	1	***		•••	11		2,828,840	68,393	1,262,500	21,54
Sumatr	a		•••	***	"		530,970	12,754	321,500	5,06
Pepper		•••	***	• • •	Cwts.		2,605	6,417	2,289	7,25
Sandalwo	od	•••		•••	29		4,492	4,377	3,571	5,86
Seaweed Sugar-	•	•••	***	•••	"	•••	74,370	27,771	92,568	24,95
***************************************		***			22		36,767	17,694	31,238	15,56
Candy				•••	22		8,095	6,964	7,039	6,23
Refined				***	12	•••	64,218	41,335	53,997	35,86
White	***	•••		***	17		75,025	44,230	28,738	19,08
Tea dust,		n	***		_ 11		*	†	5,368	14,54
Umbrella		***	•••	***	Pieces	***	100,785	6,706	78,077	4,11
Other for	eigr g	oods	•••	•••	•••			55,676	***	43,80
T	otal	•••	•••		***		•••	1,517,321	•••	1,366,121
Na.	rive (Goods.								
O . 14										
Colton—	4-				Pieces	- 1	E 410	0.053	0.110	7.04
Picce-goo Yarn	us	***	***	***	Cwts.	***	5,419	2,853	2,112	1,049
Books, prin	bod.	•••	***	***			35,045 1,299	130,708 3,928	15,452	51,313
Cloth, nativ		koone	•••	***	77	***	693	3,975	2,795 678	7,65 3,40
Coal	,	,		••••	Tons	***	755	865	155	16
Cuttle-fish	•••	•••	***	***	Cwts.	***	1,740	3,822	3,595	8,75
Dates			***	***		***	6,404	5,517	5,375	3,300
Fans	***		***	•••	Pieces	***	543,694	2,547	248,363	1,665
Fish, dried					Cwts.		1,332	2,239	1,248	3,83
Fungus	***	***	•••	***	77		1,405	6,916	1995	3,960
Medicines		***		***	77	***		2,545		2,189
Opium					Cwts.		20	1,082	16	840
Silk, all kin							•••	3,954		3,80
Геа—										
Green		***	***		Cwts.		1,318	7,619	2,331	12,126
Other kin		***	***		11		6	10	815	1,507
lobacco, pr			•••		11		1,120	5,593	1,263	5,52
Other nativo	e good	S	•••	•••	21	•		33,634		20,048
Т	otal	•••	•••					217,807		131,137

^{* 1} cwt. 21 lbs.

^{† 14}s, 4d.

Annex III.—RETURN of all Shipping at the Port of Kiukiang during the Year 1904.

ENTERED.

	Observations.					Cargo includes 9,876L re-exports		į		", 15,8787, "	
	Value of Cargo.	ಚಿ		1,105,413 131,410 20,008 380	477,917	1,735,128		::	•	1,735,128	0
Total.	Tons.			1,164,860 421,953 289,539 860	406,199	2,283,461		511 20,118	20,629	2,304,090	
ŭ.	Number of Vessels.			901 367 204 1	315	1,788		9804	813	2,292	
Sailing.	Tons.			1,862	10,628	12,490		::	:	12,490 7,408	
Sa	Number of Vessels.			e :::	43	46		::		46 39	
Steam.	Tons.			1,162,998 421,953 289,589 860	395,571	2,270,971		511 20,118	20,629	2,291,600 2,105,497	
St	Number of Vessels.			898 367 204 1	272	1,742		9804	813	2,555	
	Nationality.		(a) UNDER GENERAL REGULATIONS.	British German Japanese Norwegian	:	Total	(b) Under Inland Steam Naviga. Tion Rules.	British Chinese	Total	Grand total	

CLEARED.

	Observations.				Cargo includes 9,876l. re-exports		J		., 15,8787.
17.8	Value of Cargo.	ಚಿ		1,137,498 79,088 23,04 \$	1,771,905		::	:	1,771,905
Total.	Tons.			1,163,806 421,953 289,589 860 407,211	2,283,419		511 20,294	20,805	2,304,224 2,111,517
To	Number of Vessels.			899 367 204 1 357	1,828		805	814	2,642
Sailing.	Tons.			808	12,448		::	:	12,448 6,062
Saj	Number of Vessels.	•		.:::8	98		::	:	86 45
Steam.	Tons.		1	1,162,998 421,953 289,589 860 395,571	2,270,971		511 20,294	20,805	2,291,776 2,105,455
20	$\begin{array}{c} {\rm Number} \\ {\rm of} \\ {\rm Vessels.} \end{array}$			898 367 204 1	1,742		9 805	814	2,556 2,254
	Nationality.		(a) UNDER GENERAL REGULATIONS.	British German Japanese Norwegian Chinese	Total	(b) Under Inland Steam Naviga. Tion Rules.	British Chinese	Total	Grand total

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3341.	Hakodate	1 ½ d.	3400. Quezaltenango	½d.
3342.	Chemnitz and Saxony	1d.	3401. New Orleans	3d.
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3357.	Constantinople	2d.	Carrodon	91.J
3358.	Pomerania	21d.	3413. Dunkirk 3414. Cadiz 3415. Muskat 3416. Central Italy 3417. Fiume 3418. North Portugal 3419 Oregon, Washing	1 d.
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